

Lucas County

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Community Health Needs Assessment Snapshot

Promote Healthy Behaviors

Problems/Needs:

- Lucas County community partners have recognized the increased number of individuals within the county who are classified as overweight or obese. The adult obesity rate in Lucas County is 29%, while the state rate is 28%. Obesity has been identified as a major problem due to its impact on overall health of the residents of Lucas County.
- Diabetes-related deaths (per 100,000 individuals) in Lucas County are 44.4%, which is above the national median of 26.3%. Hospitalization rates due to diabetes in Lucas County are 18.4%, which is above the state rate of 11.5%.

Prevent Injuries

Problems/Needs:

- Hospitalization rates for falls in all age groups is 313.9 in Lucas County while the state rate is 197.3. In those age over 65, the rate is even higher at 1421.7, with the state rate at 1175.2. Currently, there are no fall prevention programs that are used county-wide.

Protect Against Environmental Hazards

Problems/Needs:

- A priority in Lucas County is safe and affordable housing rental units. At present, over 80% of the available rental units are pre-1978 built. Any pre-1978 built homes may contain lead based paint and asbestos-containing material (floor covering, siding, insulating on pipes, etc.). Pre-1960 built homes will contain lead based paint and the majority of the time will be in poor condition. Paint is chipping and peeling in many of these houses and will become a hazard when renting or leasing to families that have children that are 6 years of age and younger. The rate of lead-poisoned children under age 6 in Lucas County is 7.8%, while the state average is 5.1%.

Prevent Epidemics and the Spread of Disease

Problems/Needs:

- According to the 2010 Immunization Assessment Report by IDPH, only 46% of children 24 months of age in Lucas County were fully immunized (per Standards of Child and Adolescent Immunization Practices). The national goal is 90%. This could be due to the fact that not all providers enter data into the state data system-IRIS. Also, only 15% of adolescents in Lucas County were fully immunized according to the same report as listed above.

Prepare for, Respond to, and Recover from Public Health Emergencies

Problems/Needs:

- Lack of coordination in planning for special needs populations in Lucas County. The emergency situation will help determine who would be considered special needs. Since our county has a high percentage of elderly, it is important to include them in our planning. Many will be dependent on local public health during an emergency.

Strengthen the Public Health Infrastructure

Problems/Needs:

- There is a need for increased access to quality health care, especially those who are underinsured and uninsured. Due to unemployment rates, there are many individuals and families in Lucas County that are having trouble getting the health care services that they need. These services that are lacking in our community include mental health, substance abuse services.

Community Health Improvement Plan

Goal	Strategies	Who is responsible?	When? (Timeline)
Our goal is to promote healthy eating habits, adequate physical activity and the negative factors resulting from being obese or overweight. By doing these activities our goal is to decrease the number of overweight/obese individuals from 29% to 20% by January 2015.	Lucas County Health Center, Hy-Vee Food Stores, Chariton Community School District and Lucas County Public Health working together to provide education on the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and monitoring the effectiveness of the education. Will start in the schools and work with teachers and students on healthy eating and exercise.	Lucas County Health Center, Health and Wellness Coordinator from Hy-Vee Food Store, Chariton Community School staff, Lucas County Public Health	
	Try to secure funding to develop a healthy lifestyle marketing campaign and obtain materials for distribution throughout the community.	Lucas County Public Health, Lucas County Health Center	
	Continue with Healthy University classes at Lucas County Health Center that are held every 6 months. Continue to stress the importance of a healthy BMI at each class.	Lucas County Health Center	
	Lucas County Extension (affiliated with Iowa State Extension) to continue working with the schools and community groups with funding through the Harkin Grant and Basics Grant.	Lucas County Extension	
	Lucas County Public Health will continue to educate at risk pregnant mothers and mothers of children ages 0 to 3 on appropriate nutrition and physical activity through the NEST program.	Lucas County Public Health	
	The WIC program will continue to promote healthy eating habits to their clients.	Marion County WIC	